

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A workpiece carrier apparatus for transfer press machine comprising:

guide beams which are arranged on a left and right side of a press line;

a plurality of carriers which are supported by the guide beams such as to allow movement in a direction of the press line;

cross bars which are provided with workpiece holders and are attached to the carriers such as to be capable of being raised and lowered;

a first carrier mechanism which feeds a carrier located on a most upstream side in the direction of the press line, in the press line direction; and

a second carrier mechanism which feeds a plurality of carriers located downstream, in the press line direction,

wherein the second carrier mechanism performs a feed operation for the plurality of the carriers located downstream which is different from a feed operation for the carrier located on the most upstream side performed by the first carrier mechanism,

the plurality of the carriers located downstream are connected together and are moved together in the direction of the press line by the second carrier mechanism,

each of the carriers comprises a vertically moving body capable of being raised and lowered, and

the workpiece carrier apparatus further comprises: drive devices to raise and lower vertically moving bodies of a plurality of groups of adjacent carriers; and a power transmission mechanism connecting the drive devices, and the vertically moving bodies are raised or lowered simultaneously by any of the drive devices corresponding to the respective groups, and the cross bars are fitted between vertically moving bodies of mutually opposed carriers on the left and right guide beams.

2. **(Currently Amended)** A workpiece carrier apparatus for transfer press machine according to claim 1, wherein ~~each of the carriers comprises a~~ the vertically moving body ~~bodies~~ are capable of being raised and lowered independently, ~~and a drive device which drives the vertically moving body, and the cross bars are fitted between vertically moving bodies of mutually opposed carriers on the left and right guide beams.~~

3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Currently Amended)** A workpiece carrier apparatus for transfer press machine according to ~~any one of claim 1 or claim 2 through claim 3,~~ wherein there is further provided a lifting device which raises and lowers the guide beams.

5. **(Currently Amended)** A workpiece carrier apparatus for transfer press machine comprising:

feed beams which are arranged on a left and right side of a press line ~~such as to allow movement~~ and which are movable in a direction of the press line;

vertically moving bodies which are fitted at required locations for the feed beams so as to be capable of being raised and lowered;

lifting devices which are installed corresponding to each vertically moving body for raising and lowering the vertically moving bodies; and

cross bars which are provided with workpiece holders, and are fitted between mutually opposed vertically moving bodies provided on the feed beams,

wherein the lifting devices are installed at positions above the feed beams, and the workpiece carrier apparatus is further provided with a connecting rod which connects the lifting devices and the vertically moving bodies in a freely swinging manner.

6. **(Original)** A workpiece carrier apparatus for transfer press machine according to claim 5, wherein each of the lifting devices is installed above each of the feed beams and corresponding to the vertically moving body.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A workpiece apparatus for transfer press machine according to claim 5, wherein the respective lifting devices are driven independently.

9. (Previously Presented) A workpiece carrier apparatus for transfer press machine according to claim 8, wherein each of the lifting devices is installed above each of the feed beams and corresponding to the vertically moving body.

10. (Canceled)